Obtaining Promises

"Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions…" (Heb. 11:33)

Heb. 11:30-34

There is something each of the people in this passage have in common. They all received a promise from God, believed it, obeyed it, and obtained it. They were put in a situation and were provided with a promise when it seemed unlikely. If they chose to believe it against all appearances and act on it accordingly, they would obtain it.

Likewise, in our lives, we are put in difficult situations, either created by God or allowed by God. These situations can either make us look to ourselves to solve it, look to others, or look to God. When we're unable, and others fail us as well, we have a choice. We can grow worried, upset, and discouraged, or we can turn to the Lord in faith.

The good news is that the Lord can bring us out of any situation we face. The answer is to believe His promise. Being angry won't bring us out. Worrying won't bring us out. Crying about it won't bring us out. Only believing will bring us out.

When we're ready to believe, God will give us a promise. Like those of old, the promise comes when it seems the least likely to happen. God does this intentionally to teach us to believe Him when everything we see says it can't happen. But if we can believe it and obey it, we will obtain it.

When we believe, we activate his promise. We put things in motion. His power begins working on our behalf. It may happen immediately or over time, but the promise will be fulfilled.

Luke 1:37   (NIV) – "For no word from God will ever fail."

(NLT) - "For the word of God will never fail."

If we look at the example of Abraham, who is discussed more than any other Old Testament figure, we should follow his example.

1. Believe the promise (Rom. 4:18)

2. Declare the promise (Mark 11:23)

3. Don't consider your own limitations (Rom. 4:20)

4. See it being fulfilled (Gen.15:5-6)

5. Stay faithful in serving (Heb. 6:10-11)

6. Endure the meantime (Heb. 6:12, 15)